



CONTACT



Magazine for and about Air Force Reserve members assigned to the 349th Air Mobility Wing, Travis Air Force Base, California

Vol. 25, No. 06

June 2007

“Operation Golden Flower” - rich in medical evacuation field training

(See story on Page 6)



Inside this issue

3-4 Leadership Commentaries

Wing leadership commentaries share motivational words of wisdom.

5 AFRC awards 349th Safety NCO's hard work for the second year in a row

Thanks to the 349th AMW safety programs, everyone in the wing is thinking about how to be safer. This is why for two years in a row, Air Force Reserve Command has found its Ground Safety Noncommissioned Officer of the Year in the 349th.

6 349th medical field training is 'Golden'

"Operation Golden Flower" is an annual mass casualty field training exercise for the 349th Medical Squadron held on Travis Air Force Base, April 26-29.

7 349th Chaplain Service named best in Air Force Reserve Command

The 349th Air Mobility Wing's Chaplain Service was presented the Air Force Reserve Command Chaplain Program Service Award in a ceremony held at Robbins Air Force Base, Ga., April 17.

7 Team Travis Airman reacts with courage, saves a life

8 Community College of the Air Force graduates 23 wing members

9 Dates announced for Wing Employer Appreciation Days

Give your boss a chance to see you in action. Employer Appreciation Days include a briefing, an aircraft display, an orientation flight and a workplace tour; all designed to give a greater understanding of the Reserve mission.

10 Reserve and Active Duty Airmen work to keep C-5s delivering the goods

Many of the Airmen who are working with the Active Duty are Reserve Airmen who were activated to support the demanding C-5 aircraft mission to ensure the ability to transport cargo worldwide in the efforts to win the Global War on Terror.

11 Unit vacancies

11 349th Air Mobility Wing Enlisted promotions

12 In memoriam - 349th loses a former member in the Global War on Terror

On the Cover



Cover photo by Master Sgt. Wendy Weidenhamer, 349th Public Affairs

Sharing the load: Members from the 349th Medical Squadron, Senior Airman Amy Aragon (back right), Staff Sgt. Andrea McDonald (back left), Staff Sgt. Carman Everingham (front right), and Senior Airman Heather Woodhouse (front left), practice the many details involved in carrying a litter to and from a helicopter during the field training exercise "Operation Golden Flower," April 26-29. Staff Sgt. Brian Chrisman, from "C" Company 1-168th General Aviation Battalion, an Army National Guard unit based at Sacramento Mather Airport, Calif., walks along side, instructing the litter crew in this critical procedure. Sergeant Chrisman is also the crew chief for this helicopter and was one of the two trainers in helicopter familiarization that day.



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SAV to better our processes, improve on our techniques

The June UTA is here and we will kick it off with the 4th Air Force Staff Assistance Visit. I know each unit is prepared for the visit with all processes in order and ready to be presented for review. The team consisting of 67 members will arrive June 6 and we will continue our SAV through June 10. The visit will assist us to better our processes with the thought that we can always improve on our techniques.

I would like to take a moment and recognize our Chaplain's office. They just won the Air Force Reserve Command Outstanding Chaplain Service Program Award for 2005-06. Congratulations to Col. Neal McBride, chief of the chaplain office and his staff for running an amazing program.

We also had two wing members join the rank that is held by the top one percent in the Air Force. I'd like to congratulate our newest Chief Master Sergeants: Chief Master Sgt. Holly Didomenico, 349th Mission Support Squadron, and Chief Master Sgt. Roxie Walker-Jones, 349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron. Both individuals are well deserving and we are proud to have them in our wing. You have large shoes to fill and I know that you both will do it well. Congratulations.

Now let's discuss a relatively new initiative in the wing known as the VPP. Voluntary Protection Program is the beginning of new horizons for Team Travis and the Air Force. It is the beginning of a change to the way we all think about. VPP

was developed in an effort to reduce the number of preventable work-related injuries and illnesses and promote effective worksite-based safety systems.

VPP doesn't institute new safety programs; it builds upon safety programs already in place. The program is designed to get every Airman and his Wingman to start taking action to eliminate safety and health hazards. If you see a dangerous situation developing or if you see something that doesn't seem right, speak up. By being proactive, we will do our part to keep each other safe. VPP is a tool - safety is everyone's responsibility. With that said, I would like everyone to take the time to do the simple things which will make the work site better and bring more safety to the work environment each and every day.

The summer weather is here; Memorial Day kicked off the 101 Critical Days of Summer so let's clear the cobwebs off the old checklist of common sense and summer safety. I hope these tips start you thinking in the right direction.

*Driving-

Wear seat belts; Drive defensively; Plan frequent rest stops; Watch speed limits; Alcohol and driving NEVER mix

*Boating-

Rules of the "road" apply in the water, too. Carry life jackets, flashlights, and flares. Be prepared for sudden weather changes. Watch your speed - your wake affects others. Alcohol and boating NEVER mix.



By Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr.

*Motorcycling and bicycling-

Wear your helmet, remember, the other guy is not watching for you. Avoid heat exhaustion - rest frequently. Dress appropriately, protect your face with shield or goggles. Alcohol and biking NEVER mix.

*Swimming-

Know the water depth. Watch for "sleeper" waves - they're killers on this coast. Swim with a buddy, no horseplay - dunking's no fun for the other guy. Sunscreen, sunscreen, sunscreen. Alcohol and swimming NEVER mix.

***Outdoor activities-** Hiking, fishing, climbing, sports, picnics, gardening.

Use common sense. Respect and handle gasoline properly. Know your limits - moderation means more fun tomorrow. Handle sports equipment and tools safely. Don't take short cuts. Have a first-aid kit handy. In the heat, drink lots of fluids (NOT alcohol).

Dads, have a wonderful Father's Day and everyone remember safety first, be someone's wingman and have a successful UTA.

349th Maintenance Group Quarterly Award Winners 3rd Quarter 2007

Senior Noncommissioned Officer
Senior Master Sgt. Christine R. Hartman
945th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Noncommissioned Officer
Technical Sgt. Trevor L. Thorpe,
349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron

Airman
Senior Airman Marci A. Bloomenrader
349th Equipment Maintenance Squadron

Taking command: Dr. (Col.) Robert C. Singler, 349th Medical Group commander (left), passes the 349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron's guidon to Col. Mark A. Weiner, its new commander, during a change of command ceremony Mar. 18, in the David Grant Medical Center's auditorium.



Courtesy photo

June begins summer, celebrates Father's Day

June marks the official beginning of summer as well as the time when we celebrate Fathers' Day.

As a tribute to our fathers, I share this poem by Helen Steiner Rice, which I found meaningful:

FATHERS

Fathers are wonderful people
Too little understood,
And we do not sing their praises
As often as we should...
For, somehow, Father
seems to be

The man who pays the
bills,

While Mother binds up
little hurts

And nurses all our ills...
And Father struggles daily
To live up to "his image"
As protector and provider
And "hero of the scrimmage"...
And perhaps that is the reason
We sometimes get the notion,
That Fathers are not subject
To the thing we call emotion,



U.S. AIR FORCE

But if you look inside Dad's heart,
Where no one else can see
You'll find he's sentimental
And as "soft" as he can be...

But he's so busy every day
In the grueling race of life,
He leaves the sentimental stuff
To his partner and his wife...
But Fathers are just wonderful
In a million different ways,

And they merit loving
compliments

And accolades of praise,
For the only reason Dad
aspires

To fortune and success
Is to make the family proud
of him

And to bring them happiness...
And like Our Heavenly Father;
He's a guardian and a guide,
Someone that we can count on
To be always on our side.

Have a wonderful month. Hope to see
you at Yountville on Saturday, June 16 for
Operation Gratitude!



By Command Chief Master Sgt.
Patricia A. Thornton

OPERATION GRATITUDE

The seventh annual Operation Gratitude will be June 16 at the California Veterans' Home in Yountville, Calif. Wing members serve brunch at the Nelson Holderman Hospital to resident veterans there. This year's theme is "Flags of our Father."

The address at Yountville is:
Nelson Holderman Hospital,
California Drive, Yountville Calif.,
94599.

If you have any questions or think you may want to volunteer, please contact Master Sgt. Jim Barber, 349th Maintenance Operations Flight, (707) 424-4558.

Pursuit of happiness - happiness is now

by Chaplain (1st Lt.) Andrew Edwards
349th Air Mobility Wing

It is Monday, and I'd be much happier if it were Friday. I have a good job, make good money, but I'd be happier with a promotion. I like my church and pastor, but I wish it better served me, and that he were a better speaker. I have a good wife and great children, but I wish they were more like my friend's. I have a good home full of furniture but it's a few years old. I want some new things, but my garage is packed full of stuff, I can hardly park my SUV. I am thankful for what I have, but if I had these things I would be much happier.

Many of us are searching - looking for that one thing that will make us complete or

satisfied - something we could purchase, acquire, do, that would make us happy. We strongly affirm the Declaration of Independence: "We hold these truths to be self evident - that they (us) are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness..."

However, happiness seems to be an ever elusive pursuit to some! Amazingly, in the richest, most successful country on God's blue planet, there is a great struggle in which many toil; the search for

happiness. One unknown author said, "The pursuit of happiness will make you unhappy;" especially when one never takes the time to slow down, enjoy the things they've already acquired, and

be thankful.

I submit to you that the struggle, or pursuit of happiness, could, in actuality, be our quest for contentment? I recall the story of a great man, a man of great success; a great thinker and scholar; he suffered great setbacks, discouragement, and persecution, eventually leading to his imprisonment and the loss of his head. This brave soldier of faith, named Paul, said "Now godliness with contentment is great gain" (1 Timothy 6:6, NKJV.) Pretty amazing stuff when you consider his labor of life while endeavoring to bring men true happiness, peace and eternal life. Consider the fact that he suffered stoning, beatings, shipwreck, snake bite, persecution, and twice being imprisoned. But Paul had a proper perspective on life, he learned to be content with where he was: "Not that I speak in regard to need, for I have

(See Happiness on next page)



349th AMW Safety NCO's hard work awarded again - has all thinking safety

by Senior Master Sgt. Marvin Meek
349th Public Affairs

Thanks to the safety program, everyone in the 349th Air Mobility Wing is thinking about how to be safer. This is why for two years in a row, Air Force Reserve Command has found its Ground Safety Noncommissioned Officer of the Year here.

AFRC selected Senior Master Sgt. Matthew S. Kernen, Wing Safety Office Superintendent, for the award in 2005 and again in 2006. "If I were not a safety program manager, I'm not sure what I would be doing. I never thought about doing anything else. This is my passion. I do it because as a young man growing up I did not practice safety and as a result I made a lot of mistakes. Lessons learned from my mistakes, I can assist people in avoiding similar mistakes," he said.

Sergeant Kernen is an expert in both the military and private sector occupational safety programs. He spent seven years as a safety officer for Nestle Water Company Inc., and has served in the Wing's Safety Office for 12 years. During this time, he has helped shape a vision for administering safety and promoting a culture change, which involves education and empowerment.

"When we visit a workplace, our main goal is to educate personnel about their safety, risk management and any safety changes, which may have occurred; in addition, ensuring their work environment is compliant with safety regulations. We

try to provide proper incentives for our members so they are willing to change the way they are doing things in order to be safer. Our goal is to create an environment where everyone feels empowered to participate in the safety program. Everyone, regardless of rank or position, has the ability to speak out if they see a hazard or risk," he said.

Sergeant Kernen believes focusing on education, empowerment and in having a voice, members can have a mishap-free environment at work and in their personal lives. We inform people to take those extra steps to stop and think, especially when placed in an unfamiliar situation. Stop and think about the consequences before you act.

If you look at the Wing's safety record, you can see this approach is working. In 2005, the Wing reduced all reportable mishaps by 75 percent, and logged zero reportable mishaps on and off duty, during the 101 Critical Days of Summer campaign, a rare and extremely difficult achievement.

In 2006 the 349th logged only four reportable mishaps, all off-duty during the



photo by Master Sgt. Wendy Weidenhamer, 349th Public Affairs

Kudos to: Senior Master Sergeant Matthew S. Kernen, Wing Safety Office Superintendent, who has been named the Air Force Reserve Command Ground Safety Noncommissioned Officer of the Year in 2005 and again in 2006.

same campaign. Thanks in large part to Sergeant Kernen's passion for safety.

When you consider and perform the simple steps of stop and think before you act; whether you are on the flightline, replacing a tire on a C-17, or you're in your own garage changing the oil in your minivan, you are more likely to accomplish the tasks without a mishap.

Happiness...

(Continued from previous page)

learned in whatever state I am, to be content: I know how to be abased, and I know how to abound. Everywhere and in all things I have learned to be full and to be hungry, both to abound and to suffer need. I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" (Philippians 4:11-13.)

Paul was simply saying: be thankful, be content, and be appreciative of the simple things. During the upcoming summer months enjoy simple things with those you love, a sunset walk with your spouse; spend time with your children at the park, play board games, take them for Starbucks, get some ice cream and don't forget the importance of church

attendance! These are all inexpensive activities. But don't worry, all your family really desires is your time (time can never be redeemed once gone) and your example. Studies find that family members and friends are most thankful when you give them your time. Oh, and the benefit of being friendly, loving people, and giving them you're time - contentment and true happiness!

Remember what Paul said, "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. And having food and clothing, with these we shall learn to be content. But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation for the love of money is a root for all kinds of evil" (Philippians 6:7-10).

Enjoy this summer with contentment and happiness that begins from within!

349th medical field training is 'Golden'

*Story and photos by
Master Sgt. Wendy Weidenhamer
349th Public Affairs*

A Black Hawk was down - but only for a moment, just long enough to load patients, then the UH-60L helicopter was back in the air, and with the wop, wop, wop sound of its blades, it was gone. This was not a real medical evacuation, but an annual mass casualty field training exercise for the 349th Medical Squadron held at the previous location of the aero club on Travis Air Force Base, April 26-29.

The name of the exercise was "Operation Golden Flower." It's mission and the mission of the 349th MDS is to act as a fully functioning hospital in the field.

That means doing everything it takes to get patients stabilized and onto the next available transportation heading for a hospital outside the area of responsibility that can treat their injuries.

"We man the entire hospital," said Maj. Kim Lopez, 349th MDS medical readiness officer. "We even have a critical care team that can fly with the patient."

The unit has 100 members for what seems like a 100 jobs. There are doctors, nurses, medical technicians, pharmacy, lab, an operation room, patient ward, bioenvironmental, family practice, intensive care and even equipment repair to name a few positions. These critical skills, well honed, are what give the wounded soldier the best chances for survival.

During this "real world" training exercise, 349th MDS members stood in the hot sun waiting in a long line to out-process, and nearby, lying on the grass like old dinosaur bones, awaited all the materials to practice building tents from the ground up.

Another area of training was in the fine art of quickly and safely transporting a patient on a litter into and out of a helicopter. A helicopter from "C" Company 1-168th General Support Aviation Battalion, an Army National Guard unit based at Sacramento Mather Airport, arrived to put the "real" into "real world" training for these reservists. Two of the four members of the helicopter crew, Staff Sgt. Emmet Spraktes, medic and Staff Sgt. Brian Chrisman, helicopter crew chief, trained the 349th MDS members in helicopter familiarization.

This training exercise location near David Grant Medical Center was chosen to utilize the "building of opportunity" concept, providing an opportunity to practice adapting to

environments currently in place upon arrival.

The location also came with some restrictions due to the presence of the Golden Flower, the California Tiger Salamander and the Fairy Shrimp, all protected by endangered species laws.

"They added complexity to the exercise," said Major Lopez. "We utilized it as a landmine area to add realism. We had to continually remind our folks, but they were all very attentive and self aware."

Planning this event was a big job. Taking part in planning were, Maj. Kim Lopez; Maj. Ann Badgett, officer in charge of staff development and training; Maj. Tim Devine, OIC for disaster preparedness and Capt. James Rose, OIC of deployment. They coordinated the training exercise with many entities on base, both reserve and active duty. The 349th Aeromedical Staging Squadron and the 349th Aeromedical Evacuation Squadron were among those units loaning necessary equipment for use during the exercise.

The 349th MDG has had many opportunities to use what they practiced during this field training exercise. Members are constantly deployed and augmented active duty during the Iraq war. Currently five members of the unit are deployed to Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

But for members of the unit who have not had an opportunity to deploy, this field training exercise may have been a window into what could be a challenging stop in the "real world".

"I want people to understand their role and how important they are in the day-to-day operations of being deployed and knowing their jobs," said Maj. Lopez. "I wanted to make sure that everyone got the opportunity to perform their job. I wanted them to have the opportunity to troubleshoot any issues they had and learn how to think on their feet." Maj. Lopez added, "Many of our people don't do this everyday, so I wanted them to have a once-a-year really good experience of what to expect in the field."

And for at least one member the exercise may have done just that.

"I've never experienced helicopters quite like that before," said Staff Sgt. Alexander Putman, bioenvironmental engineering technician, 349th MDS. "It doesn't get any more real than that."



349th Medical Squadron members work together during a field exercise, April 26-29, to unload a litter from a UH-60L Black Hawk. Pictured (left to right): Capt. Marie Anger, Senior Airman James Brinkman and Maj. James Angelis. On the litter is Capt. Matthew Sena. Monitoring the procedure, in a flight suit, is Staff Sgt. Emmet Spraktes, Army National Guard, Sacramento Mather Airport, Calif. Sergeant Spraktes was a member of the helicopter crew and one of two trainers for helicopter familiarization for this exercise.

349th Chaplain Service best in AFRC

by Staff Sgt. Meredith Mingledorff
349th Public Affairs

The 349th Air Mobility Wing's Chaplain Service won the Chaplain Program Service Award from the Air Force Reserve Command in a ceremony held at Robbins Air Force Base, Ga., April 17.

Given only every two years, the award recognizes AFRC's leaders in global ministry and commitment to base community.

The camaraderie and cohesion is apparent in this team, each striving not only for personal success but to better both the Chaplain's Service and the 349th Air Mobility Wing as a whole.

"We get involved with so many projects," said Senior Master Sgt. Alice Munoz, noncommissioned officer in charge of the Chaplain's Office, proudly. "We want to be the best possible team we can be and that means developing into the best possible leaders."

The chaplaincy certainly is leading the way with efforts that can be seen and felt throughout Travis. In addition to the numerous extra duty assignments each staff member takes on, all volunteer for activities on their own time as well.

"Our Chaplain Team provides high quality ministry to our people and always strives to improve our care," said Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Gregory Stringer. "We want to make a positive difference to the people of our wing and are always looking for new

ways to let God work through us to help the people and families of our wing and its community around the base."

In the past two years the 349th Chaplain's Service has provided more than 5,100 pounds of nonperishable food to the local community and regularly educates military members and their families on the deployment process and coping strategies associated with it. Staff members are active in the Rising 6 and Top 3 groups as well as play key roles in programs like Operation Teddy Bear, Operation Gratitude, and the Wing Enlisted Workshop.

"We are very blessed and work well together," said Staff Sgt. Stacey Jackson, chaplain's assistant. "We 'blend' well, working as a team to ensure the spiritual and mental well-being of our members are provided for, regardless of religious affiliation."

"These people, this team, are good," rejoiced Chaplain (Maj.) Le Bane Hall. "They are talented, enthusiastic, educated, and dedicated to give everything of themselves for this wing!"

The accomplishments of this team can be seen in every aspect of the 349th. The 12 person staff is often seen visiting with various units during each unit training assembly, laughing, talking, and offering assistance.

"We want to be approachable," said Chaplain Hall. "Our goal is to be one-on-one with personnel. We represent something bigger than ourselves and we show that through both conversation and



Courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Stacey Jackson, 349th Air Mobility Wing Chaplain's office, volunteered to serve food during this past year's Honor Guard Appreciation luncheon. It was efforts such as this that lead to the 349th Air Mobility Wing's Chaplain Service winning the Chaplain Program Service Award from the Air Force Reserve Command, April 17.

action."

"More than a team, the 349th Chaplain's Service is a family," said Chaplain Stringer. "We strive to love each other first, so God will help us bring His love to the members of this wing. This award is a reflection of that love."

Team Travis Airman reacts with courage

by Technical Sgt. Tony Castro
349th Public Affairs

The definition of the word courage as defined by the dictionary states - implies firmness of mind and will in the face of danger or extreme difficulty. Chief Master Sgt. Terry Monges, 79th Aerial Refueling Squadron, recently showed his courage during a near fatal vehicle accident.

Chief Monges, who participates in triathlons, began his routine training ride on his bicycle from Davis, Calif., to Travis on the morning of March 19 as he would any other. However during this ride, he was faced with more than getting through his 35-mile trek.

"As I was traveling down Binghamton Road in Dixon I noticed a semi-truck and its trailer on its side in a ditch. I didn't see any other vehicles around and decided to investigate to see if anyone was inside. As I got closer to the vehicle I could hear the faint cries of someone asking for help," he said.

The sounds of someone in need made Chief Monges more

determined to see what he could do to help who ever was inside the overturned big rig. With the vehicle lying on the driver's side, Chief Monges climbed through the passenger side and through debris and mud he saw a man trapped amongst the twisted metal and struggling to breathe.

"When he saw me he just pleaded to help him. He was a big guy, probably over 250 pounds and he was having trouble getting air because of how he was pinned. He had the steering wheel, metal and other debris against his chest. I looked around and removed a half inch piece of molding that was restricting his ability to breathe. At that point I called 911 and within minutes they were on the scene."

The Chief had never encountered a situation like this in his life, but feels it has changed him. "This will stay with me forever. It was a very intense, scary moment." Once emergency personnel arrived, Chief Monges hopped back on his bike for the rest of his trip to Travis. Later that night he found out that the man he only knew as "Kenny" was in stable condition thanks to his courage.

Congratulations to the 349th Air Mobility Wing Spring 2007 Community College of the Air Force graduates. These graduates were honored for their hard work and dedication on May 3, in the base theatre. If you have questions about the educational benefits available to you, contact Chief Master Sgt. Holly Didomenico, 349th Mission Support Squadron, at (707) 424-2931.

UNIT/RANK/NAME	DEGREE	UNIT/RANK/NAME	DEGREE
70 ARS		349 CS	
MSgt. Antonio Briseno	Aviation Operations	SrA. Erika Soltero	Electronic Systems Technology
79 ARS		349 EMS	
SSgt. Steven Rodrigues	Information Systems Technology	TSgt. Renato Ibarreta	Aviation Maintenance Technology
SSgt. Steven Rodrigues	Aviation Operations	349 MDG	
TSgt. Charles Russell	Aviation Operations	MSgt. Mary Irene Subala	Information Management
TSgt. Gregory Tokarz	Aviation Operations	349 MDS	
312 AS		SSgt. Julie Doll	Medical Laboratory Technology
SSgt. Zachary Bigham	Aviation Operations	SSgt. Carlos Valdespino	Cardiopulmonary Laboratory Technology
SSgt. Luis Caragan	Aviation Operations	MSgt. Paul McCullough	Human Resource Management
349 AMDS		MSgt. Paul McCullough	Cardiopulmonary Lab Tech
SSgt. Daun Scully	Medical Laboratory Technology	MSgt. Loretta Kee	Medical Laboratory Technology
349 AMW		349 MSS	
TSgt. Beverly James	Paralegal	SSgt. Eberechi Lynch	Allied Health Sciences
349 ASTS		SSgt. Rose Stephenson	Human Resource Management
SrA. John Bittle	Cardiopulmonary LabTec	MSgt. Robert Ivey	Human Resource Management
TSgt. Melodie Pracale-Tellechea	Cardiopulmonary Lab Tech	CMSgt. Holly Didomenico	Human Resource Management
349 CES		349 OSF	
TSgt. Ronald Curry	Fire Science	TSgt. Terri Bernatzke	Aviation Operations

NEWS BRIEFS

Physical Exams Sundays only

Brig. Gen. Thomas M. Gisler, Jr., 349th Air Mobility Wing commander has approved a plan suggested by the 349th Aerospace Medicine Squadron commander to move almost all physical examination components from Saturdays of supported UTA's to Sunday. The 349 AMDS manages and administers the Reserve Component Physical Health Assessment process, which plays a critical role in determining if members are fit for duty and worldwide deployable.

Col. Mark Weiner, 349th AMDS commander noted that Wing training conflicts were the most frequently cited reasons for RCPHA cancellations and no-shows from squadrons throughout the Wing. Similarly, the AMDS found its own readiness training obligations were hampered by their unit members being tied up with the base support mission on Saturdays. In an effort to enhance

customer service, a survey administered at three successive Wing pre-UTA stand-ups revealed that over 90 percent of squadrons favored Sundays over Saturday for the RCPHA.

The change to Sundays will begin in July affecting B-Flight and C-Flight. Colonel Weiner knows that adjustments to squadron schedules will no doubt need to be made by most units, but if the recent survey was correct, most units should find that RCPHA compliance will be met with less impact on training: a win-win situation yielding increased readiness for the 349th Air Mobility Wing.

For additional information call the 349th AMDS at (707) 424-3812 or your unit Health Monitor. (349th MDG)

Mandatory separation ages change for Reserve officers

Air Force Reserve officers, if otherwise eligible, can now stay in the service longer. The change is a result of provisions in the 2007 National Defense

Authorization Act, but eligible officers still have the option of voluntarily separating or retiring before their mandatory age.

In the past, brigadier generals and below had to retire or separate when they reached age 60. Now they can stay until age 62. The age for major generals rose from 62 to 64. With the approval from the secretary of the Air Force, chaplains and officers in some health professions may remain in an active status until age 67.

Although the authorization act changed mandatory separation ages, it did not change when officers become eligible to draw retirement pay. If they meet all other requirements for retirement, they may apply for retirement pay upon reaching age 60.

Also unchanged is the requirement for an individual to request approval from the secretary of the Air Force to continue to receive service credit for any service performed once becoming qualified for retirement pay, which typically occurs at age 60. (AFNEWS)

Employer Appreciation Day application 2007

Employer Information

EMPLOYER: **Mr.** **Ms.** **Mrs.** **Dr.** **Other:**

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____

Employer's Title: _____

Company Name: _____

Employer's Home Mailing Address: _____

Person to be Notified in Emergency: _____

Employer's Emergency Phone: () _____
 (Area Code and Number)

Note: An Air Force Certificate of Appreciation will be prepared for each employer using the name you provide. Please insure that the name above is clearly legible and correctly spelled so the certificate is correct when presented by the Commander.

Sponsoring Reservist Information

Reservist Rank: _____ **Unit Assigned:** _____

Last Name: _____ **First Name:** _____

Job Title: _____ **Phone:** _____ **Duty:** _____

Reservist's Home Mailing Address: _____

Home () _____ **Work** () _____

Note: An orientation flight is offered to employers pending approval by higher headquarters and is subject to cancellation. Space is limited; one employer per reservist. Reserve members may accompany their employer if space is available.

Employer Appreciation Day dates

JUN 23 -- Maintenance Group: Point of contact is Chief Master Sgt. Victor Camacho, (707) 424-0739

JUL 21 -- Medical Group: Point of contact is Chief Master Sgt. Mark Kloeppel, (707) 424-1673

AUG 18 -- Operations Group: Point of contact is Maj. Scott Snyder, (707) 424-5730

***SEP 8 -- Mission Support Group: Point of contact is Senior Master Sgt. Ronald Nielsen, (707) 424-4904**

***(Note: Date changed from previous issue)**

Privacy Act Statement:

Authority: 10 U.S.C. 8013

Principal Use: Use of individual's home address/phone is required to contact, coordinate, and/or provide participation details for Employer Appreciation Day events.

Routine Use: Log and track employers and their participation.

Disclosure: Voluntary - home address/phone is required to contact employers regarding their Employer Appreciation Day participation.

Air Force reservists, active duty work together to keep C-5s delivering goods

*Story and photo
by Technical Sgt. Tony Castro
349th Public Affairs*

The stripes look the same, and so does the pay. But when looking around the 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron, Travis Air Force Base, you may see many Airmen sporting an Air Force Reserve Command patch instead of an Air Mobility Command patch on their Battle Dress Uniforms. Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, these reservists from the 349th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron have supplemented the active duty force, making them a welcome and common occurrence at Travis.

Many of the reserve Airmen who are working with the 60th AMXS were activated to support the demanding C-5 mission of transporting cargo worldwide. But many have stayed voluntarily past their initial activation. Technical Sgt. George Kirbyson, who serves as a shift chief, was called back to active duty in January 2005, just days after purchasing a new home. Ten short days later he was told he would be deploying to Iraq.

"I'm here because there is a need. We have seen the swings in the C-5 world and having the manpower to keep these planes flying is critical," said Sergeant Kirbyson. "However, since 9/11 the mission hasn't slowed down. We are still at war. You can't leave a sinking ship. We'll stay until the mission is done."

Staying until the mission is done for C-5 crew chief, Master Sgt. Sam Pena, who has been activated since January 2002, means more than just 12 hour shifts on the

flight line. It means sharing his 22 years of service and his experiences from numerous deployments to Southwest Asia to educate his younger, less knowledgeable active duty counterparts.

"I've trained around 50 to 60 junior Airmen who are now deployed to places like Iraq," said Sergeant Pena. "It makes me feel good that I can pass on what I know. I like being part of the operation. I feel dedicated to serving and doing my part in the war effort."

The reservists supporting to the 60th AMXS feel like they are definitely part of the team.

"They (active duty) have fully integrated me into their system," said Sergeant Kirbyson. "I carry the same weight as anyone else here. They trust me because I have spent eight years on the flight line so I know how the operation works. They realize we are a huge portion of what they do."

Many of the reservists who volunteered have either put on hold or left behind civilian occupations. Some continue to receive their civilian salary or a portion of it, while others simply have to make do

with their military income. Sergeant Kirbyson is grateful that his employer, Tesoro Petroleum in Martinez, Calif., makes up the difference between his military and civilian pay.

"If my employer didn't supplement my income it would be about a \$70,000 difference. I have a young family to support and a brand new house so it truly makes a difference," said Sergeant Kirbyson.

The 60th AMXS Superintendent, Chief Master Sgt. Rick Wooden says without the help of the reservists from the 349th, his unit would face some serious challenges.

"They are truly keeping us afloat with our current manning situation," said Chief Wooden. "Without these reservists out here volunteering to serve in active duty status we would have great difficulty completing our mission."

The sacrifice of many Airmen continues each day as both Operations Iraqi and Enduring Freedom continue. Team Travis can look out at the flight line on any given day and see Reservists who are putting service before self right next to their active duty comrades.



Many of the Airmen who are working with the 60th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron are 349th Air Mobility Wing Reserve Airmen who were activated to support the demanding C-5 aircraft (like the one shown above) mission to ensure the ability to transport cargo worldwide in the efforts to win the Global War on Terror.

UNIT VACANCIES

AFSC	AFSC Title	Rank	#	AFSC	AFSC Title	Rank	#
11M3A	Mobility Pilot, C-5	Maj	1	32E3G	General Civil Engineer	Maj	2
11M3K	Mobility Pilot, C-17	Maj	5	32E3H	EOD Engineer	Maj	1
12M3S/Y	Mobility Navigator	Maj	1/1	3E451/71	Utilities Sys	SSgt/TSgt	1/1
1A071	In Flt Refueling	TSgt	1	3E472	Liquid Fuel Sys Maint	TSgt	1
1A151	Flight Engineer	SSgt	3	3E551	Engineering	SSgt	1
1A271	Acft Loadmaster	TSgt/SMSgt	2/1	3E651	Operations Mgmt	SSgt	2
1C371	Command Post	TSgt	1	3E751/71	Fire Protection	SSgt/MSgt	1/1
1T071	Surv, Evas, Resist & Escape	TSgt	1	3E800	Explosive Ord Disposal	CMSgt	1
21A3	Aircraft Maintenance	Maj	1	3E851	Explosive Ord Disposal	SSgt	6
21R3	Logistics Readiness	Maj/Lt Col	3/1	3E891	Explosive Ord Disposal	SMSgt	1
2E153	Ground Radio Comm	SSgt/TSgt	1/2	3E951	Readiness	SSgt	1
2E251	Elect Comp & Swg Sys	SSgt	1	3S271	Education & Training	MSgt	2
2A551J	Aerospace Maint, C-5	SSgt	8	41A3	Health Services Admin	Maj	1
2A551L	Aerospace Maint, KC-10	SSgt	13	42G3	Physician Assistant	Maj	1
2A553A/B	Intergrated Avionics Sys	SSgt	6	42P3	Clinical Psychologist	Maj	1
2A571	Aerospace Maint	MSgt	1	44F3	Family Physician	Lt Col/Maj	2/1
2A573B	Intergrated Avionics Sys	TSgt	2	44M3	Internist	Lt Col	5
2A590	Aerospace Maint	SMSgt	1	44Y3	Critical Care Medicine	Lt Col	1
2A651A	Aerosp Propul, Jet Eng	SSgt	15	45A3	Anesthesiologist	Maj	1
2A652	Aerosp Ground Equip	SSgt	2	45B3	Orthopedic Surgeon	Maj	1
2A654	Acft Fuel Sys	SSgt	3	46F3	Flight Nurse	Capt/Maj	6/4
2A655	Aircft Hydraulic System	SSgt	2	46N3	Clinical Nurse	Maj/Lt Col	2/1
2A656	Aircft Elect & Envir Sys	SSgt	2	47G3A	Dentist, Comprehensive	Lt Col	1
2A671A	Aerosp Propul, Jet Eng	TSgt	1	48A3	Aerospace Medicine	Lt Col	2
2A672	Aerosp Ground Equip	MSgt	1	48R3	Diagnostic Radiologist	Maj/Lt Col	3/1
2A675	Aircft Hydraulic System	TSgt/MSgt	1/1	4A251	Biomedical Equip	SSgt	1
2A753	Acft Structural Maint	SSgt	2	4N051	Aerospace Medical Svc	SSgt	1
2G051	Logistic Plans	SSgt	1	4N071	Aerospace Medical Svc	TSgt/MSgt	3/4
2S051	Supply Mgt	SSgt	1	4N071C	Aerospace Medical Svc, IDMT	TSgt	1
2T251	Air Transportation	SrA/SSgt	9/9/	4N091	Aerospace Medical Svc	SMSgt	1
2T251	Air Transportation	TSgt	1	4Y051	Dental Assistant	SSgt	1
2T291	Air Transportation	SMSgt	1	5J051/71	Paralegal	SSgt/TSgt	1/1
2T351	Spec Veh & Equip Maint	SSgt	2	86M0	Operations Officer	Maj	1

For additional information on unit vacancies, contact Master Sgt. Bridgette Dobson, 349th Mission Support Squadron, Personnel Employment at (707) 424-1662.

PROMOTIONS



Chief Master Sergeant

Holly K. DiDomenico, 349th MSS
Roxie A. Walker-Jones, 349th AMDS



Senior Master Sergeant

Frederick P. Baquiran, 349th MDS
Jeffrey A. Rachal, 45th APS



Master Sergeant

Chad C. Bohren, 349th CS
Miguel A. Herrera, Jr., 704th MDS
Renato L. Ibarreta, 349th EMS
Jennifer N. Redway, 349th AES
Steven D. Vaughn, 349th MSG



Technical Sergeant

James C. Britt, 349th CES
Oscar J. Cerda, 749th AMXS
David W. Clark, 349th ASTS
Richard L. Gordon, 349th CS
Eddie Y. Leung, 349th MDS
Carolina S. Melgar, 349th ASTS
Kritina M. Quintanilla, 349th CES
Roderick J. Williamson, 349th EMS



Staff Sergeant

Jose M. Aquilizan, 349th AES
Sheryl C. P. Baza, 945th AMXS
Octavio Bugarin, 749th AMXS
Jeffrey N. Forzaglia, 349th OSF
Dalecarl D. Lumanlan, 349th AMXS
Michael W. Pierce, 349th AMW



Senior Airman

Sabina Carranza, 82nd APS
Mikaela A. Dean, 349th MSS
Joel A. Duria, 349th MOF
Sergio E. Hernandez, 349th AMXS
Hamid A. Mazloom, 349th SFS
Lee H. Neathamer, 55th APS
Valisia D. S. Reed, 82nd APS
Issam G. Saab, 349th CES
Jensen B. Tabisola, 82nd APS



Airman

Cody G. Yeager, 301st AS

**All promotions effective
May 1, 2007**

IN MEMORIAM

Former 349th member, Army Sgt. Mario Kawika Deleon, of San Francisco, Calif., died April 16 in Baghdad, Iraq, of wounds sustained from enemy small arms fire. He was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Schweinfurt, Germany. Sergeant Deleon had been in Iraq since October. He leaves behind a wife and young child.

Sergeant Deleon was formerly a senior airman assigned to the 55th Aerial Port Squadron from 2004-2006. He worked as a cargo processor in the cargo section.

"Mario was the type of person who could calm anyone's nerves just being around him. You instantly felt okay, safe, and most importantly you could be yourself when you were around him. He had a tough exterior (I suppose from serving a tour of the first Iraq war), but when you get to know him, you would realize his bark is far more worse than his bite," said Senior Airman Gerry Abella, 55th APS. "He was devoted to his wife Erika and son Keoni. Their health and well being were always his top priority, that's the primary reason why he reenlisted with the Army."



Courtesy photo

**May 11, 1980 -
April 16, 2007**

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